Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake & Coastal Service

Grants Gateway

CY2025/FY2026 Project Solicitation

MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

The Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR, or Department), Chesapeake & Coastal Service (CCS) is committed to providing technical and financial assistance to Maryland's communities that are challenged by intense storms, changing sea levels and increasing flooding, while balancing growing populations, economic growth, and increased tourism and recreation. These trends make the already challenging task of restoring the Chesapeake Bay, safeguarding people and infrastructure and managing natural resources even more complex.

Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway (Grants Gateway) provides a resource for partners seeking technical and financial support for projects that foster healthy and resilient ecosystems, communities and economies. The Grants Gateway provides a single point of entry to streamline the grant application process for governments, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. Eligible projects across five outcomes and one loan program will improve water quality, restore local waterways, increase resilience to climate impacts, improve navigation and boating access sites for the benefit of the boating public and develop the next generation of environmental stewards.

Through connections across the funds managed by the CCS, the Department seeks to support comprehensive and integrated projects that achieve *(at least one of)* the following outcomes:

Outcome 1 - Accelerate recovery and restoration of natural resources by implementing non-point source pollution reduction projects.

Outcome 2 -Building Flood Resilience: reducing coastal and precipitation-based flood risks to build community resilience to climate change

Outcome 3 - Design and construct habitat restoration projects to address erosion and flooding in communities and on public lands.

Outcome 4 - Improve student and community ability to take action benefiting Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems through professional development and training, curriculum expansion, outdoor learning and stewardship.

Outcome 5 - Foster sustainable development and use of Maryland waterways with projects that benefit the general boating public.

Shoreline Erosion Loan Program - Protect waterfront property and enhance wildlife habitat utilizing nature-based living shoreline techniques.

Program Summary: Eligible projects will improve water quality, restore local waterways, increase resilience to climate impacts, improve navigation and boating access sites for the benefit of the boating public and develop the next generation of environmental stewards. It is integral that applicants appropriately integrate climate change considerations into their proposed projects. Projects addressing the needs of historically underserved, overburdened, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities are highly desired.

Project Submittal & Due Date: All proposals must be submitted through the CCS web-based grants management portal at https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants_gateway

Application Timeline

Solicitation Issue Date	**July 15, 2024**
Technical Assistance/Site Visits (*as requested*)	**through November 30, 2024**
OUTCOME 5 Applications due	**September 18, 2024 by 11:59 p.m.**
OUTCOMES 1-4 Applications due	**December 13, 2024 by 11:59 p.m.**
Shoreline Erosion Loan Applications due	**through December 13, 2024* by 11:59 p.m.**
	*will be accepted on a rolling basis

Review Timeline

Technical Review and Evaluation	**January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025**
Project Selection	**April 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025**
Applicant Notification of Award	**May 2025 – July 2025**
Project Funding Begins	**July 1, 2025 – October 1, 2025**

How does the funding work?

Funding will be made available on a competitive basis. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will work with DNR to execute a funding agreement and the award will be subject to the terms and conditions included within. Awards are made possible with funding through the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, the Resiliency through Restoration Initiative, the Waterway Improvement Fund, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. Unless otherwise authorized, all payments will be made on a reimbursable basis and may be subject to annual appropriation.

Contact:

Outcome 1	Dana Reiss	dana.reiss@maryland.gov
Outcome 2	Sasha Land	sasha.land@maryland.gov
Outcome 3	Nicole Carlozo	nicole.carlozo@maryland.gov
Outcome 4	Jen Wolfe	jen.wolfe@maryland.gov
Outcome 5	Carla Fleming	carla.fleming@maryland.gov
Shoreline Erosion Loan	Wes Gould	wes.gould@maryland.gov

Grants Gateway Commitment to Environmental Justice

As stewards of Maryland's waters, CCS recognizes the historical impacts of environmental racism. Not only is diversity necessary for a healthy and thriving ecosystem, it is important to center BIPOC communities who are disenfranchised and most impacted by climate change. In order to address environmental justice, we are committed to embedding principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) throughout our grantmaking processes. Restored waters can not be achieved without prioritizing those who have been most impacted by pollution. It is the commitment of CCS to promote a culture of understanding and inclusion and to engage marginalized communities in efforts to conserve, protect, and connect with Maryland's natural spaces in projects that we solicit across all five outcomes and the Shore Erosion Loan program. To learn more about these focus areas, please visit the DNR Environmental Justice website. **Proposals that are outcome driven to protect and restore the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays, while addressing the needs of historically underserved, overburdened, and BIPOC communities are highly desired.** Applicants are encouraged to consider the "Guiding Questions for Evaluating Equity Concerns and Impacts in Decision-Making" section on page 37 of the *Maryland Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework Recommendations: 2021 - 2030* report.

Considering Climate Change in Grants Gateway Proposals

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Policy 2010:11, "Building Resilience to Climate Change," established that the Department will make sound investments in land and facilities and manage its assets and natural resources to better understand, mitigate, and adapt to

climate change. **It is integral that applicants appropriately integrate climate change considerations into their proposed projects**. Successful applications will utilize climate tools and resources in their proposals, that may include the following key authoritative resources, as appropriate, based on the project type and location:

- [Maryland Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework Recommendations](#)
- Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections
- [Projected Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) Curve Data Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia](#)
- For proposals that will address flood hazards, CCS encourages applicants to use the [MyCoast: Maryland](#) tool to document current impacts and changes over time.

Outcomes

Each project proposal must be submitted under only one of the following five outcomes or the shoreline erosion program. To ensure the best possible proposals the Department recommends that applicants contact the respective outcome contact to discuss their project ideas and arrange a field visit (if applicable) prior to developing and submitting an application.

Outcome 1 – Accelerate recovery and restoration of natural resources by implementing non-point source pollution reduction projects.

Fund Source: *The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund (state)*
Minimum grant request: *$500,000*

When is this proposal due? December 13, 2024

When is funding available? Beginning July 1, 2025

How much funding is available? In the past five years, available funding for the solicitation has ranged from $15M to $35M. The minimum grant request is $500,000. If your proposal is below this threshold, please email the contact below.

Who is eligible to apply? Local jurisdictions, non-governmental organizations, institutions of higher education, for-profit entities (see pay for success track below)

Where can my project(s) be located? Funding is only available for projects located in the Maryland portions of both the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the Atlantic Coastal Bays. Tree planting projects are eligible for all of Maryland. Public and private lands are eligible.

What kind of projects are supported by Outcome 1?
Implementation-ready restoration proposals can be submitted under this outcome. Example projects can include, but are not limited to: wetland restoration, afforestation and other tree planting projects, riparian buffer restoration, stormwater best management practices, stream restoration, meadow plantings, and agricultural best management practices. Projects must address water quality to the mainstem of the Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Coastal Bays by reducing non-point source pollution, namely nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Projects should be cost-effective, located in targeted areas, and be implementation-ready. Competitive projects will be large-scale, multi-partnered efforts with demonstrable water quality benefits. Partners in and serving historically underserved, overburdened, BIPOC excluded, underrepresented, and under-resourced communities throughout the state are especially encouraged to apply. Proposed projects should demonstrate the ability to construct within 12 months of award. Additionally, the state is interested in supporting projects that provide desirable co-benefits, including:

- environmental justice, equity, diversity and inclusion benefits;
- climate resilience;
- carbon sequestration;
- creation of wildlife habitat;
- local employment opportunities;
- improvement or provision of recreational opportunities; and
- restoration of aquatic resources, such as seagrass beds or oyster reefs.

To aid in the evaluation of these co-benefits, the state has developed a targeting map for applicants to better understand proposed projects' full impact. Guidance for the map is available here.

Pay For Success Track: For-profit entities proposing pay for success projects are now eligible to be applicants for Outcome 1. Pay for success proposals will need to provide a proposed quantification plan, as an upload, which includes:
1. The method that will be used to measure or model environmental outcomes and co-benefits. **This would be in addition to the required use of FieldDoc.**

2. The compliance monitoring that will occur to ensure that the proposed project objectives are implemented, functional, and maintained over the life of the project.
3. Verification steps that will be carried out by the state or an evaluator to confirm model results or accurate measurement of environmental outcomes.
4. The timeline for proposed payments under a grant with the state.

For all proposals: Funds cannot be used to bank water quality credits, meet compensatory mitigation requirements (i.e. new or re-development) or otherwise sold for profit.

For stream restoration proposals: Effective FY26 grant cycle (funds available July 1, 2025), CCS will require that stream restoration projects in the areas indicated on this map provide pre-restoration Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic macroinvertebrate data in order to be eligible for funding:

- designated cold water streams (MDE Use Classes III and IV);
- existing cold water (identified by the presence of trout or benthic macroinvertebrate cold water obligates *Tallaperla* and *Sweltsa*); or,
- high quality (MDE Tier II) stream catchments.

Applicants submitting stream restoration proposals located in the aforementioned areas must provide pre-restoration MBSS benthic macroinvertebrate sampling data that includes Index of Biotic Integrity scores, taxa lists, and MBSS data sheets, and is collected by certified practitioner. Full requirements available here.

Who should I contact with application/project questions or ideas?
Please contact Dana Reiss, dana.reiss@maryland.gov, to discuss general project ideas. **We strongly encourage applicants to contact CCS to discuss their project(s) and arrange a site visit.**

How is my proposal reviewed and selected for an award?
- Cost-Efficiency: Defined as the state cost per pound of nutrients and sediment reduced. Leveraged funds help to reduce the overall cost of the project to the state, thus increasing cost-efficiency. Your FieldDoc nutrient and sediment reductions are audited internally and compared to other proposals.

FY2025 solicitation average state cost per pound of funded projects:

	Nitrogen	*Phosphorus*	*Suspended Solids*
Annual	*$568 (per lb)*	*$3,340 (per lb)*	*$2,465 (per ton)*

- Readiness and Ability to Proceed: Your proposal is scored on having a properly vetted project. If permits are needed, have you applied for and/or received permits? Will construction begin within 12 months? Have you demonstrated organizational capacity? Are the appropriate stakeholders and community partners engaged? How far along are designs? Is there a right of entry and/or long-term protection plan in place? Is there a maintenance agreement in place? Are the nutrient and sediment credits being used by a county, municipality, etc?
- Targeting and Maximizing Opportunities: [Click here](#) to view the targeting map that can assist in showing how your project can maximize opportunities and meet co-benefits goals. Does the project include enhanced habitat benefits, ecological uplift, floodplain reconnection and/or increased resiliency? Is the project in a targeted area? Does the project include community engagement, if applicable? Are you performing any kind of monitoring including benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, temperature monitoring or any other water quality monitoring to demonstrate current impairment, or to demonstrate whether the project objectives will be achieved (required for some stream restoration)? Have you taken the opportunity to highlight how the project fits into any layers on the [targeting map](#)? Does the project directly address the co-benefits discussed in the narrative?
- Overall Proposal: Your project will be scored based on a complete application that will deliver a desired and scientifically sound project. What is the current level of degradation? Is the problem clearly defined? Is the proposed project sufficient to fix the issue? Are the designs consistent with the deliverables in the narrative? Is there a detailed budget? Does the budget seem reasonable? Is there support from the stakeholders?

Required attachments:

☐ **For all Projects:** A Transmittal Letter on official letterhead that is signed by an executive who is authorized to request funding on behalf of the applicant organization.

☐ **For Projects on Private Lands:** Landowner agreement(s); and, if applicable, HOA/Community Land Authorization(s). Templates are available on the [Grants Gateway site](#).

☐ **For Projects in Areas to Be Impacted by Sea Level Rise:** Worksheet for Selecting a RSLR Estimate, which is Appendix A (also available on the [Grants Gateway website](#)) in the *Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections* report.

☐ **For Non-governmental Applicants:** Letter of support from a local government representative; landowner agreement as necessary

☐ **FieldDoc nutrient and sediment reductions**:

- ○ Applicants are required to use FieldDoc.org to estimate nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions. **Any proposal that does not include calculations from FieldDoc will not be considered.**
- ☐ **Current Designs**
- ☐ **Complete Budget**
- ☐ **Letters of Support from Committed Partners**
- ☐ **Photographs of Current Conditions**
- ☐ **Pay for Success Quantification Plan (if Pay for Success track)**
- ☐ **Pre-restoration MBSS sampling data (if stream restoration is located in aforementioned areas)**

Outcome Contact: Dana Reiss
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410.260.8825 | (e) dana.reiss@maryland.gov

Outcome 2 – Building Flood Resilience: reducing coastal and precipitation-based flood risks to build community resilience to climate change

Fund Sources: Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant, Environmental Protection Agency (Chesapeake Bay Watershed, federal); Maryland Coastal Zone Management Award, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (MD Coastal Zone, federal).
Maximum request: $125,000

When is this proposal due? December 13, 2024

When is funding available? October 1, 2025

How much funding is available? Proposal requests typically range from $40,000 - $100,000 for projects that will be a maximum of one year in duration. If awarded, applicants should be open to either receiving direct financial support or technical assistance through a CCS-selected provider.

Who is eligible to apply? Local jurisdictions, non-governmental organizations, institutions of higher education.

Where can my project(s) be located? Projects can be located within Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and/or Maryland's Coastal Zone (see map for details). Since these are planning projects, the project area can encompass both public and private lands.

What kind of projects are supported by Outcome 2? Projects that seek to improve a local government's understanding of flood impacts and vulnerabilities and that address those impacts at a community scale are encouraged to submit a proposal. Flood impacts may be at the community, county, or municipal level and may be the result of high tide flooding, changing sea levels, and/or an increased incidence and severity of precipitation events. Proposed projects can plan for either or both short (1-10 years) and long (+10 years) term flood impacts.

Proposed projects can support risk assessments to understand current and future vulnerability, identify and incorporate adaptation strategies into current planning processes, and develop conceptual designs or engineered for identified adaptations. Project outcomes and deliverables should result in risk-reduction strategies and/or higher regulatory standards that propel the implementation of identified on-the-ground adaptation projects.

Previously funded projects can be found here.

Examples of projects may include:

- Assess flood hazards and existing stormwater infrastructure to identify system improvements, including green infrastructure approaches, to reduce flood risk.
- Develop conceptual or engineered plans for areas identified in previous planning processes that are prioritized for flood risk reduction.
- Evaluate how flood risks may be impacted by projected changes in precipitation patterns.
- Assess the vulnerability of natural resources, recreational and public access, and built infrastructure to nuisance or high-tide flooding and future impacts under the *2023 Maryland Sea Level Rise Projections*.
- Update and adopt planning processes to incorporate resilience through approaches such as small area flood mitigation plans, critical areas plans, floodplain ordinances, building codes, zoning ordinances, and/or long-term plans.
- Develop or integrate a green infrastructure plan to address coastal, stormwater, or floodplain hazards.
- Maintain membership in, or apply to, Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS).

Projects that address flood impacts caused by tidal waters should reference the jurisdiction's nuisance flood plan and/or flood mitigation plan or other planning processes to show how it

aligns with ongoing risk reduction strategies. Applicants are encouraged to use Appendix A of the *Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections* report to determine flood risk tolerance and sea level rise estimate for long term projects.

Projects addressing precipitation-induced flooding should be consistent with the trends described in the [Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment](#) and illustrated for the project's target area through the [*Projected Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) Curve Data Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia*](#).

Who should I contact with application/project questions or ideas?
To discuss project ideas, please contact Sasha Land, kate.vogel@maryland.gov.

How is my proposal reviewed and selected for an award?

- Proposal Completeness: All sections of the proposal were satisfactorily completed.
- Problem and Need: The proposal describes a significant local need to address a problem resulting from climate-induced flood impacts..
- Appropriateness of Proposed Work: The proposed project presents a technically- and financially-feasible approach to address the defined problem and identify short-term and long-term solutions.
- Use of Climate Resources and Tools to Assess Impacts: Proposals addressing sea level rise provide a completed Appendix A from the *Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections*. Proposals describe which climate tools and resources were used to develop the proposed approach
- Advances Flood Risk Reduction or Adaptation Strategies: The proposed work fits into the larger context of community efforts to reduce flood risk and climate impacts
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement: the proposal describes how the project will engage the local community and/or appropriate stakeholders, including the government body that has to adopt or approve the final deliverables. The proposal describes how the applicant intends to address environmental justice and the needs of historically underserved, overburdened, and BIPOC communities.
- Partners: Partners are identified and have demonstrated a commitment to participate.
- Program Change and Readiness to Proceed: Proposals commit to achieving a program change, which could be a change in local programs, policies or decisions that reduce vulnerability to flood impacts. The proposal demonstrates clear intent to advance any recommended/identified solutions.

What are the Required Attachments?

- [ ] **A Transmittal Letter** on official letterhead that is signed by an executive who is authorized to request funding on behalf of the applicant organization.
- [ ] **Letters of support** from county or town council, town administrator, county executive, or appropriate decision-making body
- [ ] **Photographs of impacted areas**
- [ ] **Complete Budget Table**. Available on the Grants Gateway website
- [ ] **Complete Appendix A**: Guidance for using Maryland's 2023 SLR Projections (applicable to projects addressing sea level rise). Available on the Grants Gateway website

Outcome Contact: Kate Vogel
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410.934.2005 |(e) kate.vogel@maryland.gov

Outcome 3 – Design and construct habitat restoration projects to address erosion and flooding in communities and on public lands.

Fund Source: *Resiliency through Restoration Initiative (state) and Maryland Coastal Zone Management Award, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (federal).*
Maximum request for design: $100,000

When is this proposal due? December 13, 2024

When is funding available? July 1, 2025 - October 1, 2025 depending on fund source and state/federal approvals.

How much funding is available? Design/permit projects typically cost between $30,000 and $100,000. Permit fees are not eligible. Construction projects typically cost between $200,000 and $1.5M depending on project scale. Larger scale projects on public lands that exceed these amounts may also be considered. Please reach out to the outcome contact to discuss larger scale projects. Funds cannot be used to bank water quality credits, meet compensatory mitigation requirements (i.e. new or re-development), or otherwise sold for profit.

Who is eligible to apply? Local governments and non-profit organizations can submit proposals under this outcome. Please reach out to the outcome contact for more information on non-profit eligibility.

Where can my project be located? Projects can be located throughout Maryland. Public and private lands are eligible, but projects on private lands must demonstrate a community-wide benefit.

What kind of projects are supported by Outcome 3? This outcome supports design/permitting, design-build, and construction of restoration projects. Design/permit projects are typically completed within 24 months and construction projects are typically completed within 12 months. Projects may include shoreline restoration, beneficial use of dredged material, tidal marsh restoration, dune restoration, rain gardens, bioswales, and other green stormwater and restoration practices that provide community and ecosystem benefits.

Examples of projects may include:
- Design and construct a suite of restoration projects that address coastal and non-coastal flooding in a BIPOC or marginalized community.
- Design a stormwater practice (i.e. bioretention facility, rain garden, stream restoration, regenerative stormwater conveyance system) that will address rain-induced flooding.
- Construct a coastal habitat restoration project that enhances natural features (i.e. wetlands, dunes, forests, floodplains, oyster reefs) while protecting roads, critical infrastructure, or habitat from future sea level rise.
- Design a living shoreline or wetland enhancement project that uses local dredged material while protecting public lands that buffer coastal economies.

Who should I contact with application/project questions or ideas? To discuss project ideas or arrange a site visit, please contact Nicole Carlozo at nicole.carlozo@maryland.gov. Applicants considering project proposals that include beneficial use of dredged material are encouraged to contact Maggie Cavey at maggie.cavey1@maryland.gov to discuss opportunities that may enhance the competitiveness of their proposal.

How is my proposal reviewed and selected for an award?

Eligible projects will:

1. Enhance habitat through coastal restoration or nature-based practices. Projects may support design, engineering, and implementation of restoration practices.
2. Address climate change impacts. Projects will reduce community flood risk and/or erosion impacts.
3. Provide community-wide benefits. Projects will benefit a majority of community members and protect community infrastructure and/or assets.

4. <u>Incorporate climate change data</u>. Projects will address short term (1-10 years) and long term (10+ years) impacts based on the life expectancy of the proposed project. For coastal flooding/erosion projects, consider marsh migration and the 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland using the Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections. For stormwater projects, consider trends in the [Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment](#), and/or [Projected Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) Curve Data Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia](#)

Competitive projects will:
- Demonstrate readiness and ability to proceed (i.e. work can begin within 6 months).
- Support BIPOC and marginalized communities through resilience, water quality, habitat, public access, health, job creation, recreation, or cultural benefits.
- Document critical or community infrastructure (i.e. # roads, buildings, parks) benefiting from the project.
- Partner with a local government and/or implement recommendations identified in local plans or assessments (i.e. hazard mitigation plan, nuisance flood plan,green infrastructure plan).
- Restore public lands, allow public access, and serve as a demonstration site.
- Demonstrate community support and engagement opportunities.
- Support technical innovations, such as [beneficial use of dredged material](#) for habitat restoration, shoreline stabilization, beach nourishment, or elevation enhancement of wetlands.
- Provide conceptual-level or greater designs.
- Provide up to 1:1 matching funds or include cost savings measures. Leveraging funds through the Shoreline Erosion Loan Program is highly encouraged, where applicable.
- Shoreline projects will be screened through Maryland's [Coastal Resiliency Assessment](#).

What are the required attachments?
- ☐ **A Transmittal Letter** on official letterhead that is signed by an executive who is authorized to request funding on behalf of the applicant organization.
- ☐ **For Projects on Private Lands**: Landowner agreement(s) and, if applicable, HOA/Community Land Authorization(s). Templates available on [Grants Gateway site](#).
- ☐ **For Projects in Areas to Be Impacted by Sea Level Rise:** Appendix A in the *Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections* report to select a RSLR estimate.
- ☐ **For Non-profit Applicants**: Letter of support from a local government representative (i.e. county or town council, town administrator, county planning office, county executive) that addresses how the project supports local efforts to address climate change; and, landowner agreement(s) as necessary.

- ☐ **Current designs** (if applicable)
- ☐ [**Communication Strategy Worksheet**](#). Template available on [Grants Gateway site](#).
- ☐ **Photographs of current site conditions and impacts from high tide or rain-induced flooding.**
- ☐ **Complete Budget Table**. Template available on [Grants Gateway website](#)

Outcome Contact: Nicole Carlozo
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410.260.8726 | (e) nicole.carlozo@maryland.gov

Outcome 4 – Improve student and community ability to take action benefiting Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems through professional development and training, curriculum expansion, outdoor learning and stewardship.

Fund Source: *Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (federal)*
Maximum Request: *$100,000*

When is this proposal due? December 13, 2024

When is funding available? Beginning July 1, 2025

How much funding is available? Up to $100,000. If your proposal is above this threshold, please email the outcome contact below.

Who is eligible to apply? Local non-governmental organizations or non-profits, local and state agencies, and schools and school systems including higher learning institutions. Partners in and serving historically underserved, overburdened, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) excluded, underrepresented, and under-resourced communities throughout the state are especially encouraged to apply.

Where can my project(s) be located? Public lands, in schoolyards, community property, private property. All projects should be located within Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

What kind of projects are supported by Outcome 4? Funding will be offered as available to support learning experiences and educational opportunities focused on environmental issue exploration and investigation leading to stewardship action. Funding will support two tracks for this outcome: Track One will focus on projects serving formal K-12 education systems, and Track Two will focus on projects serving communities or public education. Both tracks include proposals focused on local watershed and land-use issues, and should be based on sound environmental education principles.

The projects should be the result of collaborative student/community-stakeholder planning oriented toward capacity building and civic engagement, as well as stewardship.

Examples of projects may include:
- Transportation and facility fees to allow student, teacher, or community access to natural areas such as parks, public lands, and to environmental facilities
- Environmental engagement or stewardship for students or community members
- Environmental educator professional development and training
- Community environmental education programs and training
- Supply costs for environmental investigations, field equipment, and stewardship projects

Who should I contact with application/project questions, ideas or eligibility? To discuss project ideas, please contact Jen Wolfe, jen.wolfe@maryland.gov

How is my proposal reviewed and selected for an award?
Demographics/Need: For both Tracks 1 and 2, your proposal will be scored on: 1) the number of people who will benefit from the project, 2) the outreach and inclusion of historically underserved, overburdened, and BIPOC communities, 3) demonstration of addressing local environmental issues and community inclusion, and 4) ability to provide demonstration value, transferability, or value to other programs or organizations.

Education and Stewardship Connections: For Track 1 (School Systems), your proposal will be scored on: 1) connections to curriculum standards*, 2) opportunities to provide hands-on environmental and learner-led educational experiences, 3) capability for systemic or sustainable programming, and 4) inclusion of professional development opportunities. For Track 2 (Community Education and Stewardship), your proposal will be scored on: 1) connections to

environmental or stewardship best practices, 2) opportunities to provide hands-on environmental and learner-led educational experiences, 3) capability for systemic or sustainable programming, and 4) training and experiential learning opportunities.

> *Connections between the proposed work and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards, Maryland Service-Learning Graduation Requirements, and/or the Student Outcome of the Environmental Literacy Goal of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences).*

Program Development: For both Tracks 1 and 2, your proposal will be scored on: 1) emphasis on teacher/school system or community engagement in planning and implementation, 2) reach of the project and potential to benefit the local community, 3) capacity to deliver the program as described, and 4) demonstrated ability to address equity issues.

Budget: For both Tracks 1 and 2, your proposal will be scored on: 1) feasibility for the requested funding to achieve the project's goals, 2) cost-effectiveness of the project, and 3) methodology to include the individuals, groups, or organizations needed to effectively fund and implement the project.

What are the required attachments?
Track 1 (School System or Systemic Program):

> **A Transmittal Letter** on official letterhead that is signed by an executive who is authorized to request funding on behalf of the applicant organization.
> **Letter(s) of support from leadership of the school system(s) or organization** (i.e. superintendent(s), supervisor of science, school principal, organization director)
> **Letters of Support from participating partners/impacted community members**
> **Environmental Literacy Plan or other evidence of environmental literacy programming**, such as curriculum alignment, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE), Environmental Literacy Model (ELM), etc.

Track 2 (Partner/Community Organization):

> **Transmittal letter** from applicant organization, with signature of authority
> **Letter(s) of support from school administration of partnering schools** (i.e. principal, science coordinator), or other partners
> **Outline or documentation of environmental education curriculum or programming plan and activities for the project**

Outcome Contact:

Jen Wolfe
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410.260.8988|(e) jen.wolfe@maryland.gov

Outcome 5 – Foster sustainable development and use of Maryland waterways with projects that benefit the general boating public.

Fund Source: *Waterway Improvement Fund (state)*

Maryland's Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF) was established in 1966 (Annotated Code of Maryland Section 8-707 of the State Boat Act) for the purpose of funding projects which improve and promote the recreational and commercial capabilities, conditions, and safety of Maryland's waterways for the benefit of the general boating public. Revenues for this fund are primarily obtained from the one time 5% excise tax that is paid to the State of Maryland when a boat is purchased and titled in the state.

When is this proposal due? September 18, 2024

When is funding available? Beginning July 1, 2025

How much funding is available? Annual WIF capital project funding administered within the Department has historically varied from $1.5 million (FY2012) to $21.3 million (FY2009) as the revenue fluctuates with boat sales and gasoline usage.

Who is eligible to apply? Applicants must be a county, town, or city government, or a state or federal agency.

Where can my project be located? On any Maryland waterway on publicly owned land.

What kinds of projects are supported by Outcome 5?
Typically, jurisdictions apply for WIF grants in order to:
1.   construct, renovate, or maintain public boating access facilities;
2.   dredge navigable channels and harbors; and,
3.   purchase fire/rescue vessels in partnership with local fire companies.

4.   Establish, operate and administer a competitive "Maritime Heritage Preservation'' grant program. Starting in FY26, with the passage SB674, proposals will be accepted from eligible statewide Maryland-based historic preservation nonprofit organizations for this purpose. Any selected nonprofit(s) must have demonstrated experience in grantmaking.

CCS requests applicants for WIF grant types 1 and 2 (above) to consider ways to build climate resilience into their projects. At certain points over the project's expected design life, some project locations may be susceptible to impacts from nuisance and higher-than-high tide flooding, storm surge, storm water flooding, and future sea level rise. Please include information about any climate considerations in the "Project Details" section of your application, particularly those that would help to avoid or minimize impacts to your project. Applicants submitting proposals for projects that may be impacted by sea level rise should consider completing Appendix A in the *Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections* report as a tool to evaluate which relative sea level rise projection is appropriate for the project and to guide ways that resilience could be incorporated into the project.

Nonprofits submitting proposals under type 4 (above) should complete the applicant profile and attach a detailed proposal outlining their experience in grantmaking, how they plan to administer any awarded Waterway Improvement Funds for Maritime Heritage Preservation, a proposed method for identifying and selecting eligible grant recipients, along with the requested grant amount (budget). For more information, see https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0674

Additional information for grant types 1-3 (above), can be found in the Waterway Improvement Fund Grants Manual.

For projects considering the beneficial use of dredged material, applicants are encouraged to reach out to Outcome 3 and Outcome 5 points of contact to discuss opportunities that may enhance the competitiveness of their proposal. Type 2 projects (above) may be paired with restoration projects to simultaneously address resiliency and waterways needs.

All applicants that receive Outcome 5 grant funding will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Department. The Department reserves the right to revert any unexpended or unencumbered balance from the grant not used during the grant performance period (seven years).

The Governing Body will publicly advertise the project for bids or use other procurement methods approved in advance by the DNR and CCS. Budgeted costs for engineering/design (A/E) services should be adequate and reasonable.

Project contracts with a total value equal to or greater than $250,000 for which the State provides 25% or more of the funding will be advertised as prevailing wage contracts (COMAR 21.11.11).

The Governing Body will prepare a tabulation of bids and/or other methods of procurement and submit to the DNR with comments and recommendations **prior to** the award of any contract.

Projects that involve the construction, demolition, installation, alteration, repair, or salvage activities located in, on, over, or under State or private tidal wetlands must be performed by a licensed Marine Contractor. Information can be found at [Maryland Department of Environment (Licensed Marine Contractors)](#).

How is my proposal reviewed and selected for an award?
Selection criteria can be found in Section 7 ("Project Evaluation Criteria") of the [Waterway Improvement Fund Grants Manual](#).

Who should I contact with application/project questions or ideas?
- For Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties contact Celeste Anderson (410-897-2153 or celeste.anderson@maryland.gov)
- For Allegany, Baltimore City and County, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties contact Alice L. Scanlon (443-433-6043 or alicel.scanlon@maryland.gov) and Carla Fleming (443-534-6289 or carla.fleming@maryland.gov)
- For Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties, contact Matt Negley (443-433-6284 or matt.negley@maryland.gov)
- For resilience questions, contact Jillian Seagraves (443-924-0405 or jillian.seagraves@maryland.gov)
- For statewide dredging, contact Isaac Wilding (443-458-8217 or isaac.wilding@maryland.gov)
- For beneficial use of dredge material, contact Maggie Cavey (240-886-2356 or maggie.cavey1@maryland.gov)
- For overall Waterway Improvement Fund or Maritime Preservation questions, contact Carla Fleming (443-534-6289 or carla.fleming@maryland.gov)

Shoreline Erosion Loan Program – Protect waterfront property and enhance wildlife habitat utilizing nature-based living shoreline techniques.

Fund Source: The Shoreline Erosion Control Revolving Loan Fund

Maryland's Shoreline Conservation Service was established in 1964 by act of the Maryland General Assembly for the purpose of addressing shoreline and erosion problems along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The program provides technical and financial assistance to waterfront property owners experiencing erosion.

When is this proposal due? through December 13, 2024 on a rolling basis

When is funding available? July 1, 2025

How much funding is available? $800,000

Who is eligible? Local governments, non-profit organizations, communities, and private property owners are eligible to apply.

Where can my project(s) be located? Waterways within the State of Maryland that are experiencing erosion.

What kind of projects are supported by the Shoreline Erosion Loan Program? <u>This opportunity is for nature-based living shoreline projects only</u>. Financial assistance is not available for structural projects (ie. bulkheads, revetments, seawalls etc). Awards will be based on the availability of funds.

Examples of projects may include:
The Shoreline Erosion Control Revolving Loan Fund provides waterfront property owners with an opportunity to apply for a zero-interest loan for nature-based living shoreline projects. Loan terms range from 5-20 years (determined by project type) and include a nominal administrative fee based on projected construction costs. The loan is secured by a Shoreline Erosion Control Lien and/or a Special Shoreline Erosion Control Taxing District (dependent on applicant type). Funds may be used towards design and/or implementation of nature-based living shoreline projects.

Who should I contact with application/project questions or to schedule a site visit?

To discuss project ideas, please contact Wesley Gould at wesley.gould@maryland.gov. **A site visit with CCS is required prior to application submission.** Schedule a site visit here. For more information, please review our frequently asked questions page.

How is my proposal reviewed and selected for a loan? Proposals will be scored based on cost effectiveness, readiness and ability to proceed, and by maximizing ecological uplift opportunities appropriate to the site. Proposals will be reviewed on a revolving basis, based on the availability of funds.

What are the required attachments?
- ☐ Copy of plat
- ☐ Copy of deed
- ☐ Photographs of existing site conditions
- ☐ Current design plan (if applicable)
- ☐ Permits (if applicable)
- ☐ Cost estimate, budget, contracts etc. (if applicable)

Outcome Contact: Wesley Gould
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410.260.8812 |(e) wesley.gould@maryland.gov

Submitting a Proposal through Grants Gateway

Additional submission resources and information for all outcomes can be found at http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/funding/grantsgateway.aspx. The website includes a number of useful resources to help complete your application including but not limited to; outcome budget templates, a sample landowner agreement, outcome application questions, Appendix A in the *Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections* and Outcome 1 Co-Benefit and Targeting Map Guidance. Applicants will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin or ancestry in the use of any funding acquired pursuant to this application.

Eligible Applicants for all Outcomes

Government-affiliated: Local and state government agencies and affiliates, including local school systems and park services, are eligible to propose projects under all outcomes. Applications must be submitted by a representative of a local government and the government entity must be the funding recipient if selected.

Non-Governmental Organizations: (**Not eligible for Outcome 2 or Outcome 5**) Non-profit organizations that are registered, in compliance and in good standing with the Maryland Secretary of State are eligible to propose projects. This includes Institutions of Higher Education.

Individual private or commercial landowners, consultants, contractors, and other for-profit entities with demonstrated restoration experience are encouraged to apply in partnership with an eligible entity identified above. For-profit entities are eligible to apply to the pay for success track within Outcome 1. Communities and private property owners are eligible to apply to the Shoreline Erosion Control Program.

Submission Guidelines
All applications must be submitted through CCS's Grants Gateway: https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants_gateway. Applications CANNOT be mailed, faxed or submitted in person. If this is your first time submitting a proposal, you will first need to visit the website and sign up by clicking on "Sign Up" to create a profile. Please store your username and password in a secure location for later reference. Your username and password will be used to submit online reports if your project is selected and to submit future proposals.

Grants Gateway Application:
After creating your profile, use the "Get Started" button on the Home page to begin your application. There are three phases to complete your Application:
- **Common Application**: general details about your proposal
- **Project Details**: site and task specific details
- **Budget**: funding requested and leveraged/match fund details. Note: you will be asked to download a budget template for the outcome you are applying for that you are required to complete and upload. The template includes space for notes to explain or justify line items in your budget. There is no match (unless identified under Outcome 5 matching grant) or leveraged funds required; however, demonstrating matched and leveraged funds may help in the competitiveness of your proposal.

Fill out the appropriate information and follow the instructions for each subsequent step in the process. There is no additional narrative requirement for the application outside of the form-based responses. Please direct any questions about your applications to the appropriate

outcome contact, listed in each outcome. All submissions require a transmittal letter on official letterhead that is signed by an executive who is authorized to request funding on behalf of the applicant organization. Application questions can be reviewed and printed for planning purposes on the Grants Gateway website: http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/funding/grantsgateway.aspx

Selection Process

Each project proposal will receive an initial screening by CCS to ensure the application meets basic eligibility criteria. CCS staff may follow up with applicants to discuss the projects further. The State reserves the right to refuse review due to ineligibility or lack of information. Eligible proposals will then be evaluated by an inter-agency review team based on criteria identified in the outcomes above. After review, if awarded, CCS staff will work with selected candidates to complete the final scope of work for the project and discuss timing needs to ensure project outcomes are met on time.

Cancellation of the solicitation

The state reserves the right to cancel this solicitation at any time.